

# A San Gabriel Mountains National Recreation Area

A NATIONAL RECREATION AREA MANAGED BY THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE.

## VISION

This alternative concept recognizes the special character of the San Gabriel Mountains as a collection of nationally significant resources, a habitat connector, and an urban recreation area. Public awareness and appreciation of the mountains will be elevated through increased and improved recreation, education, and access. This concept also reaches beyond the forest boundary to protect connected habitats and educate people about the mountains.



## DESCRIPTION OF CONCEPT

The San Gabriel Mountains would be designated by Congress as a National Recreation Area which would continue to be managed by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). The new designation would bring additional attention to the mountains, its significant resources, opportunities, and resource needs. The enabling legislation would include additional authorities for the USFS to coordinate a regional land management partnership, protecting habitat connections and providing coordinated education and interpretation. The USFS would increase its educational and interpretive efforts, both in and outside of its boundaries. Expanded recreational opportunities, including access and trails, would be a primary focus.

## MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

The designated lands would continue to be managed by the USFS. The USFS would also coordinate a regional land management partnership.

## NPS ROLE

The NPS would have no role in this alternative concept. The Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area would continue to partner with the USFS, as it currently does, on an informal basis.

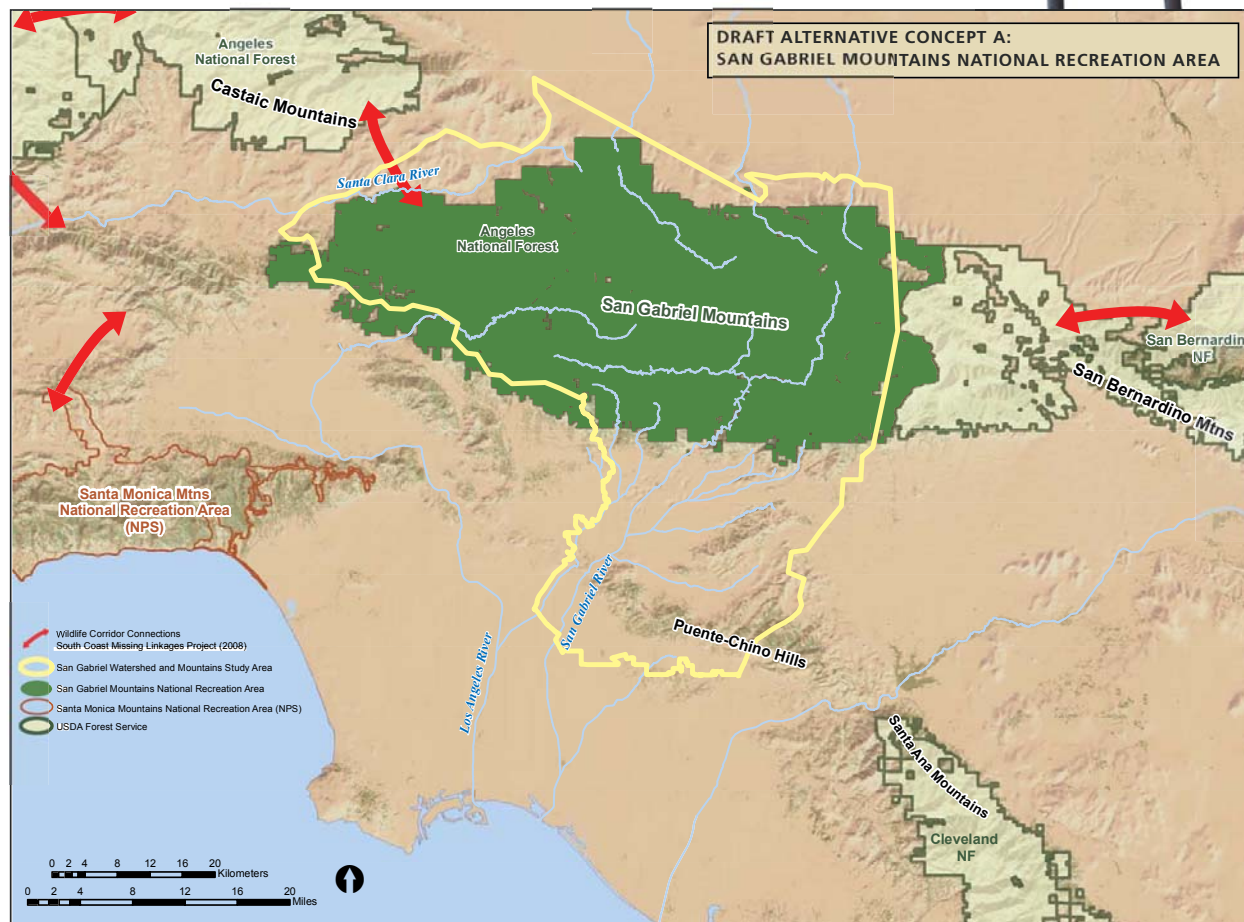
## FUNDING

Increased attention and a narrower management focus resulting from the special designation may encourage additional or reprioritized federal funding for resource restoration and protection projects, as well as improved recreation, interpretation, and educational facilities and programs. Legislation could authorize the USFS to manage lands purchased by other agencies like the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy.

## WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

The San Gabriel Mountains and foothills are nationally significant for their geologic resources, high biodiversity, dynamic river systems, and a long history of scientific study and discovery. Within a 90-minute drive of over 15 million people, the San Gabriel Mountains offer superlative opportunities for public enjoyment and scientific study. A national recreation area designation would recognize the national significance of the mountains and provide the Angeles National Forest with more authorities and funding to protect, interpret, and provide for public enjoyment of those significant resources. Authority to work beyond its boundaries would enable the USFS to protect biodiversity through maintenance of important wildlife corridors and habitat connections.

Expanded and improved recreation and interpretive services and facilities would benefit surrounding communities by increasing the supply of quality recreational and learning experiences. National recognition of the mountains would raise awareness of their significant resources among residents and enhance a sense of regional pride.



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# San Gabriel Parks and Open Space Network

A PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP OF INTERCONNECTED PARKS AND OPEN SPACES.

## VISION

This alternative concept protects and expands an interconnected system of parks, habitats, and open spaces, connecting urban neighborhoods, mountains, and rivers within a broader ecosystem. Coordinated education and interpretation focuses on connecting people to the special resources and stories of their mountains and watershed. Access to recreational opportunities closer to home is increased.



Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area, Irwindale

## DESCRIPTION OF CONCEPT

Under this alternative concept, a park and open space network would be developed through a partnership of public and private landowners and organizations. The partnership would be comprised of federal, state, and local land management agencies, along with recreation and conservation organizations. A comprehensive plan for a connected system of parks would be created under the partnership, detailing coordinated management strategies to protect and enhance natural resources, cultural resources, recreation, and access. The partnership would coordinate interpretive and educational messaging throughout the network. An information sharing network would be established to organize, consolidate, and distribute scientific information related to the region. An urban satellite office connected to the California Mediterranean Research Learning Center at Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area would provide research and educational opportunities to communities and schools. The partnership would serve as a model for future efforts in other areas such as the north slope of the San Gabriel Mountains, the Santa Clara River, and Antelope Valley.

## MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

A partnership of land management agencies, conservation organizations and recreation interests would be created. The key roles of the partnership would be to administer the network, share information between partners, and create a comprehensive plan. Lands would continue to be owned and managed by the current owners.

## NPS ROLE

The NPS could provide initial planning and administrative assistance for a specified term. Afterward, the NPS would provide continuing technical assistance to the

partnership on a more limited scale, including the development of interpretive and educational materials. The NPS would operate a California Mediterranean Research Learning Center satellite office in the study area. Opportunities for collaboration with the San Dimas Experimental Forest would be explored.

The Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail and the Old Spanish National Historic Trail would work under existing authorities to increase interpretation, education, and recreational opportunities.

## FUNDING

The partnership could establish a fundraising organization or be a coordinating body for existing grant programs. The partnership would leverage funds from a variety of sources (e.g. state bonds, Land & Water Conservation Fund) to increase and prioritize funds for new parks, trails, and open spaces within the network. Congressional funding would allow the NPS to provide initial planning assistance to the partnership.



Chino Hills

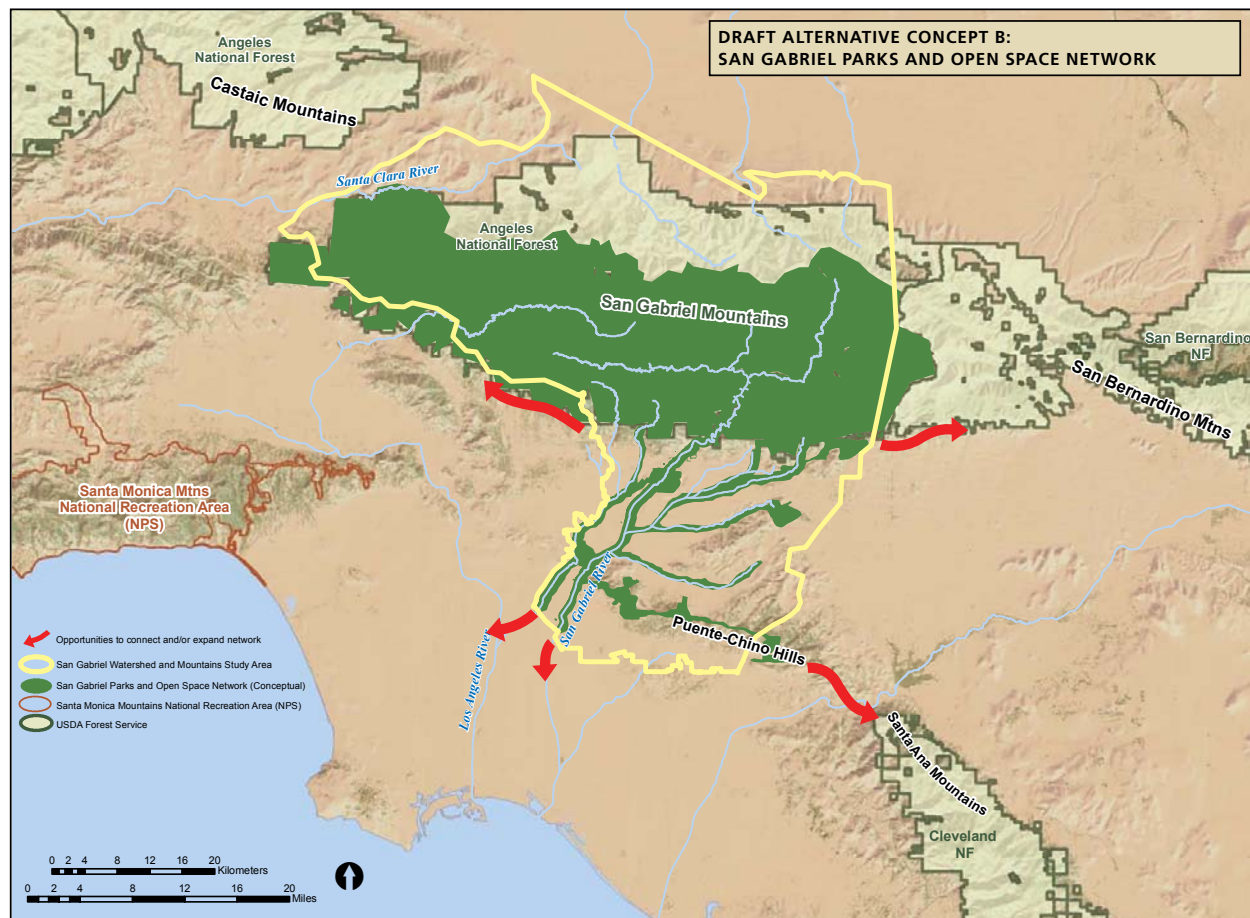


Lashbrook Park, City of El Monte

## WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

This alternative concept would increase open space, provide new recreational opportunities in underserved areas, and foster a regional identity based on being part of a broader ecosystem.

In addition to expanding parks and recreation areas, the parks and open space network would provide additional habitat connections to significant natural resources in the San Gabriel Mountains, Puente-Chino Hills and the isolated pockets of rare native plant communities located throughout the San Gabriel Valley and Los Angeles coastal plain. Enhanced habitat connections would strengthen regional biodiversity. Additionally, the parks and open space system would provide more opportunities for the public to learn about and enjoy the significant cultural resources of the region such as the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail and the Old Spanish National Historic Trail. Sites important to interpreting these trails could be incorporated into the network.







# San Gabriel Watershed National Recreation Area

A NATIONAL RECREATION AREA COOPERATIVELY MANAGED BY THE NPS, USFS AND OTHER LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCIES.

## VISION

This alternative concept connects the mountainous upper reaches of the San Gabriel River in the Angeles National Forest with the urban communities through which it descends, connecting those communities to nationally significant resources in the watershed. A National Recreation Area (NRA) expands access to river-based recreation and offers new interpretation and educational opportunities, including a cooperative program to provide coordinated recreational access, interpretation and information throughout the watershed.

## DESCRIPTION OF CONCEPT

The San Gabriel Watershed NRA would encompass the river, its upper watershed, associated trails and access points, and other adjacent public lands. It would be managed by a partnership including the NPS, USFS, and the numerous other agencies and organizations with land and interests in the area. The upper watershed portion of the NRA would continue to be managed by the USFS. In the lower portion of the watershed, the river corridor and related public lands would continue to be managed by existing owners. These organizations would work through the partnership to develop and implement a comprehensive management strategy for the watershed's natural and cultural resources, public access and recreation opportunities, and interpretive and educational opportunities. The partnership would also develop a voluntary program throughout the rest of the watershed that would allow existing conservation and recreation-oriented sites to offer coordinated interpretation and information.

## MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

A formal partnership would be created to develop and implement a coordinated and comprehensive management strategy for the watershed. Each partner, including the USFS, would retain all of its land ownership, management and decision-making authorities. Water and flood protection would continue to be managed by those currently responsible.

## NPS ROLE

The NPS would take a lead role in the coordination of the partnership, including providing technical, planning, and administrative services. The National Recreation Area outside the Angeles National Forest would be considered a "unit" of the National Park System, while remaining under existing ownership and management. The NPS would have no land use authority except that it may be authorized to acquire limited lands from willing sellers for operational purposes. The NPS would be authorized to enter into interagency agreements with the other NRA partners, in order to share resources and manage the NRA effectively. For example, through

interagency agreements, the NPS could provide educational, interpretive and other services, including providing "river rangers" along the river.

## FUNDING

Lands within the NRA would remain under their current jurisdictions, with each land management agency continuing to fund their own operations. The NPS would receive federal funding for its administrative, educational, and interpretive roles. The partnership could establish a fundraising organization or be a coordinating body for existing grant programs. The partnership could leverage funds from a variety of sources (e.g. state bonds, Land & Water Conservation Fund) to increase and prioritize funding for projects in the NRA and strategic acquisitions.



Eaton Canyon Natural Area, Pasadena



North Fork of the San Gabriel River

## WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

Portions of the watershed of the San Gabriel River are nationally significant for their geologic resources, high biodiversity and long history of scientific study. The north, east and west forks of the San Gabriel River support sensitive wildlife and meet the eligibility criteria for National Wild and Scenic River designation. In lower reaches, the river contains some of the best remaining alluvial fan sage scrub vegetation in the Los Angeles Basin, and riparian areas which support a high diversity of wildlife including federally endangered species such as the Least Bell's vireo.

These river systems also provide a significant portion of the local water supply for area residents, and are popular recreation destinations for the 15 million people of the Los Angeles basin. The San Gabriel Watershed NRA would provide the National Park Service and partner land managing agencies with more funding and recognition to protect, interpret, and provide for public enjoyment of these significant resources.

By interpreting the connections between communities and their watershed, this alternative would promote a sense of regional identity through a shared understanding of the natural processes that shape the area. Dispersed and expanded river recreation would provide new opportunities along the urban river corridor.

